

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00401 241525Z

53

ACTION ACDA-10

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USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0401

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: TREATMENT OF REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS IN DRAFT NATO
GUIDANCE

1. IN VIEW OF THE ENCOURAGING FACT THAT THE SPC IS
CONTINUING ITS DRAFTING WORK ON THE DRAFT GUIDANCE TO THE
AD HOC GROUP ON OPTION 3 AND CONSEQUENTLY, THAT DRAFTING
CHANGES MAY BE MADE IN THE TEXT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WE
WISH TO DRAW TO THE ATTENTION OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES A
POTENTIAL PROBLEM RELATING TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE GUIDANCE.

2. AS PART OF THEIR EFFORT TO AVOID REDUCTION OF ARMA-
MENTS OR ACCEPTANCE OF LIMITATIONS ON THESE ARMAMENTS,
FRG OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TAKING THE POSITION AT NATO AND
IN THE TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF OPTION 3 THAT THE US

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00401 241525Z

SHOULD NOT REDUCE ANY FURTHER NUCLEARS BEYOND THE CONTENT

OF OPTION 3 EITHER IN PHASE I OR PHASE II AND THAT THE WEST SHOULD TELL THE EAST IN CONNECTION WITH TABLING OPTION 3 THAT THERE WILL BE NO OTHER ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS OF ANY KIND BEYOND THE CONTENT OF OPTION 3 EITHER BY THE US OR ITS ALLIES IN PHASE I OR IN PHASE II.

3. THIS APPROACH IS REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSED FRG LANGUAGE FOR PARAGRAPH 3 BEGIN QUOTE: BEGIN BRACKET THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS, IF AND WHEN PRESSED, SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE EASTERN SIDE THAT THIS OFFER IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS FINAL, IN THE SENSE THAT NO OTHER OFFER FOR THE REDUCTION OF ANY EQUIPMENT OF ANY KIND CAN BE HOPED FOR IN EITHER PHASE I OR PHASE II FROM EITHER THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER WESTERN PARTICIPANTS. END BRACKET. END QUOTE. THE APPROACH IS ALSO REFLECTED IN SPC DISCUSSION OF THE PRECEDING PARA 3 LANGUAGE ON THE "UNIQUE TRADE" CONCEPT.

4. THE DELEGATION FULLY AGREES THAT THE GUIDANCE SHOULD SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF A ONE-TIME PHASE I OPTION 3 OFFER NOT SUBJECT TO INCREASE. BUT THE FORMULATIONS PROPOSED BY THE FRG GO BEYOND THAT POINT. IF THE US FOLLOWS FRG DESIRES, IT WOULD IN EFFECT BE TELLING THE SOVIETS FROM THE OUTSET WHEN THE WEST PUTS DOWN OPTION 3 THAT THERE WILL BE NO US AND NO EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II AND HENCE, ALSO THAT THERE WILL BE NO LIMITATIONS ON WESTERN EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS EITHER IN PHASE I OR PHASE II OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH.

5. TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS APPROACH PREMATURELY TAKES A POSITION ON PHASE II WHEN THERE IS NO NEED TO DO SO, IT WOULD APPEAR TO UNNECESSARILY DECREASE THE ATTRACTIVENESS FOR THE EAST OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AT THE TIME WHEN IT IS BEING AUGMENTED BY OPTION 3. MOREOVER, THIS POSITION WOULD TIGHTLY LIMIT FUTURE FLEXIBILITY OF THE US AS REGARDS PHASE II REDUCTIONS AND WOULD DETERMINE IN ADVANCE THE ALLIED POSITION AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SOVIET TANK WITHDRAWALS IN PHASE II.

6. IT APPEARS DESIRABLE TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH ALLIED OFFICIALS AND TO TELL THEM THAT (A) WE HAVE NO DESIRE THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00401 241525Z

THEY TAKE A POSITIVE POSITION ON REDUCING THEIR ARMAMENTS, (B) BUT THAT TAKING A POSITION NOW AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLIED ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II IS PREMATURE, (C) THAT THE US IS RELUCTANT TO USE FORMULATIONS WITH THE EAST AT THIS STAGE WHICH WOULD DECREASE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF OPTION 3 THROUGH TAKING POSITIONS ON ISSUES WHICH SHOULD PROPERLY NOT BE ADDRESSED UNTIL PHASE II. RESOR

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